

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
MAY 22, 2007**

ITEM 9

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PRELIMINARY SMALL COMMUNITY WASTEWATER GRANT (SCWG) COMMITMENT TO THE COUNTY OF SONOMA (COUNTY), PERMIT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MONTE RIO COMMUNITY WASTEWATER PROJECT (PROJECT); SCWG PROJECT NO. SCG-636

DISCUSSION

The County is seeking a SCWG from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to construct a new wastewater collection system, wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), and treated effluent disposal system for the Community of Monte Rio.

The Community of Monte Rio is located in western Sonoma County, along the Russian River approximately one mile downstream of Guerneville. The Project will be constructed on the "Sheridan Ranch Site" which is located adjacent to the Russian River, approximately 1.3 miles west of the center of Monte Rio. The Project will serve 617 parcels located in the downtown commercial area and the adjoining residential areas, both north and south of the Russian River.

The Monte Rio service area is presently served by individual septic tank leach field systems, which treat and dispose of all residential and commercial sewage. Many of the systems are old, substandard, and do not meet minimum criteria cited in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Regional Water Board) for on-site WWTFs. Some of the existing systems are known or suspected to have chronic or periodic problems evidenced by surfacing sewage effluent. Other systems are located in areas of high groundwater and/or have inadequate soils, and do not meet required setbacks to streams. The presence of failing individual systems has been documented by Sonoma County staff and North Coast Regional Water Board staff. The North Coast Regional Water Board adopted Resolution R1-2004-0086 on October 6, 2004, approving a Sonoma County Health Hazard Declaration and Local Moratorium on the construction and use of new on-site systems for vacant parcels within the Monte Rio Community Wastewater District.

The objective of the proposed Project is to construct a new collection, transmission, treatment, and disposal system for residential and commercial sewage in the Monte Rio Project service area and to achieve compliance with the North Coast Regional Water Board's Basin Plan.

The overall Project is to construct a collection, transport, treatment, and disposal system to replace the failing septic systems located within the Monte Rio Project service area. Project area sewage will be collected and transported by a combination pressure and gravity sewer collection system. Individual grinder pumps and septic tank effluent pumping (STEP) systems will be utilized on parcels located within the floodplain area of the service area with clustered systems being used where feasible. A gravity sewer collection system will be utilized for adjoining hillside areas. Wastewater will be transported from the individual and clustered collection systems to a WWTF along State Highway 116 (the Sheridan Ranch) in Monte Rio. The transmission line will consist of an 8-inch diameter force main and will generally follow the path of State Highway 116.

The WWTF site is located adjacent to the Russian River, approximately 1.3 miles west of the center of Monte Rio. The WWTF will include headworks, a sequencing batch reactor (SBR), a tertiary treatment filtration system, an ultraviolet disinfection system, sludge handling facilities, and an emergency power system. Treated wastewater will be disposed of to land and will occur entirely within the boundaries of the Sheridan Ranch site. The wastewater disposal facilities include a combination of subsurface pressure-dosed leach fields, seasonal subsurface drip irrigation of pasture grasses, riparian vegetation, and other native tree species on the Sheridan Ranch site. During the wet weather season (November through April), all treated wastewater will be disposed to a leach field system. During the dry weather season (May through October), half of the treated wastewater will be disposed to the leach field system and the other half to a subsurface drip irrigation system.

State Water Board staff have reviewed and considered the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP), and the Notice of Exemption (NOE), and determined that the Project will not result in any significant adverse water quality impacts. State Water Board staff will file a Notice of Determination with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research following funding approval.

In accordance with the State Water Board's *Small Community Wastewater Grant Program Guidelines* (Guidelines), adopted on June 17, 2004, projects on the Competitive Project List (CPL) need State Water Board approval to receive a SCWG. The State Water Board can authorize a construction grant commitment to an applicant after the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) approves the Final Plans & Specifications. The Division approved the Final Plans & Specifications for the County's Project on May 5, 2006.

The State Water Board, on October 21, 2004, adopted the SCWG Statewide CPL, which included the County's Project. The CPL was publicly reviewed and all comments have been addressed. The County's Project complies with the Guidelines, is on the eligible portion of the Statewide CPL, and is routine and non-controversial.

The eligible construction cost is estimated at \$12,441,000, based on the Construction Grant Financial Assistance Application. The total eligible Project cost, including engineering allowances, exceeds the SCWG maximum of \$2 million. The County has received a Planning Grant of \$154,692 and a Design Grant of \$246,558. Therefore, the remaining SCWG available to the City for the Project is \$1,598,750. The balance of the funds will come from other funding agencies.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve a SCWG Preliminary Construction Grant Commitment of \$1,598,750 to the County?

FISCAL IMPACT

The State Water Board received approximately \$53.5 million from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 and the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, and after subtracting funds to administer the program, \$50,750,000 is available to fund projects to resolve existing or potential public health threats or pollution problems.

	SCWG Program Local Assistance Beginning Balance	\$50,750,000
	Minus Previous Funding Commitments	\$29,297,443
	Current Balance	\$21,452,557
Project No.	Applicant	
SCG636	County of Sonoma, Permit & Resource Management Department – Monte Rio	\$1,598,750
	SCWG Program Local Assistance Fund Balance If All Items Are Approved	\$19,853,807

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

The North Coast Regional Water Board adopted Resolution No. R1-2004-0086, which approves and accepts the Sonoma County Health Hazard Declaration (Declaration) and Local Moratorium. According to the Declaration, existing homes and businesses in Monte Rio are directed to hook-up to the public sewer when it becomes available, construction and use of new septic systems for vacant parcels are prohibited, and final authority for approving any exemptions or septic system waivers is given to the North Coast Regional Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should approve a SCWG Preliminary Construction Grant Commitment of \$1,598,750 for the construction of the County's Project.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-

RESOLUTION APPROVING A SMALL COMMUNITY WASTEWATER GRANT (SCWG) COMMITMENT TO THE COUNTY OF SONOMA (COUNTY), PERMIT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MONTE RIO COMMUNITY WASTEWATER PROJECT (PROJECT); SCWG PROJECT NO. SCG-636

WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), on June 17, 2004, adopted the *Small Community Wastewater Grant Program Guidelines* (Guidelines);
2. The State Water Board, on October 21, 2004, adopted the SCWG Statewide Competitive Project List, which included the Monte Rio Community Wastewater Project for the County in the fundable Priority Class A;
3. The Division approved the Facilities Plan for the County's Project on August 8, 2000;
4. The Division approved the Final Plans and Specifications for the County's Project on May 5, 2006;
5. The County prepared and adopted an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2002 for its proposed Project; and
6. State Water Board staff have reviewed and considered these environmental documents and determined that the Project will not have any significant water quality impacts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board approves a SCWG Preliminary Construction Grant Commitment of \$1,598,750 for the construction of the County's Project.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on May 22, 2007.

Song Her
Clerk to the Board